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Song of the birds
Sounds of spring on page 4

Glimpses of the past
A new column starting on page 5

A Minden settler story
Reconnecting with local roots on page 11

With the ice finally melted off Head Lake in Haliburton, we get a chance for extra reflection. /EMILY STONEHOUSE staff

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REBECCA: *Poems*

I'M REBECCA. *Reba* for short. I've been in the same class as my twin brother Thomas for three years in a row. We get along, but we're quite different. We shared a room until July when he and dad took half the bunk bed down into our rec room to make a space just for me. It has lots of light, and my desk will be wider there. I've been writing stuff forever, and now, in Grade 6, I get to make a monthly 500-word *editorial* as well. Opinions! Feels so grownup.

So far, Miss Fields seems really good with our Thomas. He doesn't say much, so I like how she checks in almost every day with all of us. He's actually starting his homework without being nagged. I'm also glad our teacher doesn't expect much more than reading, finishing leftover assignments, and doing projects. She wants us to have more family time and less pencil time.

DEB REED
Wind in the Attic

Thomas' main thing is creating animation. Mine is poems. I notice how lines can have a beat. I've loved lullabies and nursery rhymes since I was a baby. I buy bargain store notebooks to fill with my own verses. Here's my favourite:

Where's our family camping site?
Three blue tents - turn left or right?
Bike wheel turning, campfire burning - found them!
What's for supper tonight?

Mom's also an excellent writer. She's not very well right now, so dad's working from home until she feels better. She camped a lot as a kid, so we all go too. We've tried almost a dozen campgrounds so far in Ontario and Québec. I love putting that extra little mark over the first *é* in Québec. It's called *accent aigu*. I used to go to French Immersion.

We're planning on driving farther east this summer to try a seaside campground. Mom thinks she'll be stronger by then. I don't mind wild animals nearby because apparently they rarely attack. But mosquitoes? No thanks. They attack plenty. We were once visited by something overnight, but our food was safely locked up in the car. We yelled and clapped to scare away whatever it was. I think it was a black bear, but maybe it was a raccoon.

I'm learning to play a small accordion. Why? Because my grandmother drives over once a week, turns my poems into songs, and our practicing helps cheer Mom while she watches from the couch. Gran brings either her famous ginger-molasses-raisin bread, wild blueberry trifle, or *Jam Jams*. I'm her biggest fan. She still talks with a touch of accent, and tells us long scary stories about stranded sealers, Mummers, hags and phantom ships.

Dad does most of the cooking these days, but last night, Thomas surprised us with homemade *breakfast-for-dinner*. Weird coincidence: I'd just demonstrated Newfoundland *toutons* at Girl Guides the night before. So I wrote another rhyme:

Oh hello, he's cut some dough
Fried by Thom, they're SO the bomb!
Yum-by-yum, every crumb

Woah. I'm getting seriously GOOD at this!

CountyLife

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For information on how your flyer can be inserted each week in County Life please contact Melissa Armstrong at **613-332-2002** or **melissa@haliburtonpress.com**

Chasing the waterfalls

THERE IS a lot of water everywhere right now. The low-lying fields, the ditches and really any area that is saturated from so much rain. Rivers and waterfalls are overflowing, and the water is moving fast. On my usual drives to the offices, there are lots of places where the water is moving in the ditches and frantically pouring to lower ground.

I have met many people in my life that chase water falls. I thought it was just a song lyric, but plenty of people actually love the experience of being near falling water and seek out new and different places where water cascades. In my drive and in lots of other country lanes there are hundreds of little waterfalls right now as all this water moves.

TERESA JORDAN
Community Living Contemplations

Made me think about how we are all chasing things like waterfalls, the next big thing that we know will lift our spirits. And here in this chaos of floods and wash outs, there are little water falls everywhere to be enjoyed. Like lots of things, this could be a case of too much of a good thing as many people stack sandbags and bail water.

For some of us, it is a bit of a metaphor, no more chasing waterfalls, they are chasing us. Little pockets of joy and beauty in hundreds of places. That is my wish for today, little glimpses of small waterfalls, small pleasures, small beauties and then cumulatively, great joy. In times of stress and unknown there are troubles pooling, however, I think there is always some good to be chased, some little things to be noticed and some great wonders to behold in ordinary places.

Axe me no questions

STEVE GALEA
Beyond 35

WHEN THE average person thinks of the outdoors in spring, they immediately envision returning songbirds, drumming grouse, wildflowers, and the regeneration of the woods around us.

We outdoorsmen, though, also view spring as the perfect time to start a small fire. But that's only because we need that small fire to start a much larger one.

Does anyone actually need a fire at this time?

Not really, but without a fire, an outdoorsman would have no good reason to show everyone in the ER how good they are at sharpening their hatchet.

Though few people write about it, we all know that casually brandishing your hatchet in an outdoors setting is a longstanding tradition amongst those outdoorsy folks who still have enough fingers left to do so.

The truth is you could hardly call yourself an outdoorsman or woman, if you can resist the urge to pick up a hatchet to split kindling or to bury it so deep it into a stump that the next person who pulls it out might be declared king.

What I have just described are the two main reasons for the hatchet's popularity.

This was brought to my attention last weekend while we were visiting my daughter and son-in-law's cabin. People were practically lining up to use the camp hatchet. I'm not saying that a lot of kindling was made, but I will say I don't remember the surrounding woods being clear cut when we got there.

I was also horrified to discover that young people these days have no idea how to use a hatchet properly. The first aid kit never got opened once.

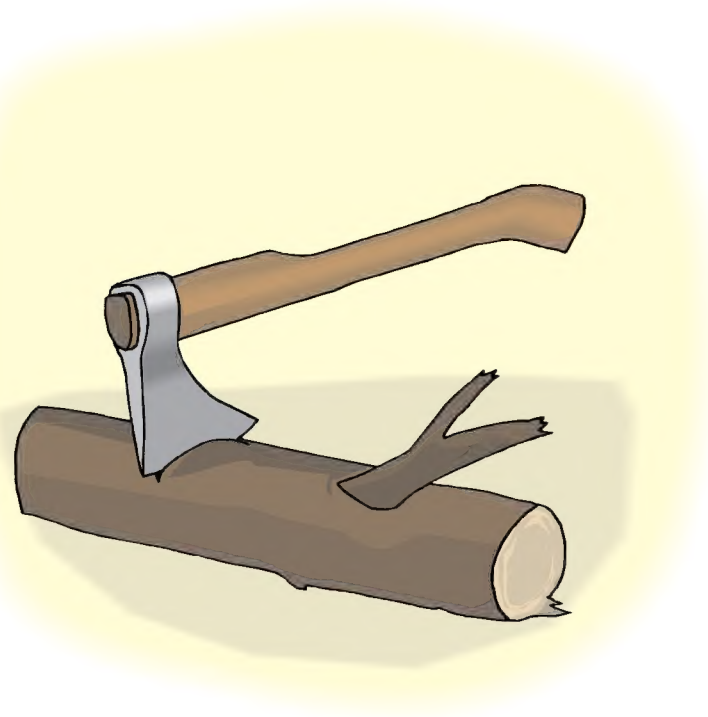
For the experienced outdoorsman or woman, a hatchet serves many useful purposes.

It can serve as a hammer, a nail clipper, a can opener, and the reason for that scar your grandkids will one day ask you about. It also can be used for making mashed potatoes, and something that a red squirrel dodges, after you throw it twenty yards to the left of the big tree trunk you were aiming at.

Of course, there are other more important uses too.

For instance, I have noticed that whenever someone says, "Hey want to see my new hatchet?" all the mosquitoes within a three-mile radius quickly gather round them. I'm guessing this is because they realize that there will soon be enough blood to go around.

Hatchets remain frequently misunderstood by those who are smart enough not to own one. Many people are also under the false impressions that hatchet use commonly leads to thumb injuries. Relax. That's not the case at all.



Hatchets rarely cause thumb injuries, mostly because savvy hatchet users make a baton to hammer the back of their hatchet. And thumb.

An improperly used hatchet is more of a threat to the user's shins, since when it misses or deflects off of a stick, that is where the swing's path typically takes it.

The best way around this is to kneel when you are using a hatchet and not swing it wildly or with too much force. Let the sharpness of the blade do the work.

Also, pay close attention to what you are doing. That way it is less likely that you will miss the target, but if you do it will hit the ground in front of you.

The first time this happens you'll be glad that you kneeled. Plus, it's more appropriate to say a prayer of thanks from that position.

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Naturally Yours

The joy of birdsong

RICK WHITTEKER
Naturally Yours

SPRING IS a time of transition. The duvet of snow recedes, sometimes slowly and sometimes too fast. Bare ground reveals itself again. Mammals stir and look for fresh sources of food. Amphibians and reptiles miraculously emerge from their near-death state and insects start to come to life. Perhaps the most welcome transition begins when the quiet of the muffled winter soundscape changes to the rejuvenating sound of spring birdsong.

It is natural to feel uplifted by the singing of birds – a component of the growing body of research demonstrating a positive relationship between time in nature and improved mental health. A study in 2018 found that birdsong positively impacted peoples' feelings of anxiety, depression, and general well-being while also improving their capacity for deeper concentration and focus. Who would have thought that these little hollow boned creatures could have such a profound impact on our health?

An interesting perspective on the power of birdsong notes that birds sing only when they feel safe to do so. They remain quiet when there are possible dangers afoot or they use their stark alarm calls to warn mates and flock members of the potential of harm. Their instinctual behaviour of singing only when feeling safe stimulates an evolutionary response in us – birdsong sends a signal to our nervous system to calm down resulting in a more relaxed mental state.

In my neighbourhood south of Minden, my rain-soaked mood is lightened by several early avian arrivals. One of the earliest arrivals is the frisky eastern phoebe. A flycatcher, the phoebe is a simple brown and white bird that sits upright in the lower branches of trees demonstrating typical flycatcher behaviour – their tail bobs up and down like they are trying to stay balanced on their perch. The phoebe song is a raspy "fee-bee", sounding like they are calling out their own name – the phoebe call resembles the sound made by someone stepping on a squeaky dog toy!

Another notable birdsong in my neighbourhood is the laughter-like song made by the northern flicker. Easy mistaken for the similar sounding song of the flicker's larger woodpecker cousin, the pileated woodpecker, the flicker's song is not as loud and often is more drawn out than that of the pileated woodpecker's song.

The flicker's feeding behaviour is vastly different from all other woodpeckers as it prefers to peck away at soft ground instead of drilling into trees. The flicker uses its unusually long tongue – up to five centimeters beyond its curved beak – to snare ground ants and beetle larva.

Along the Gull River, the rattly song of the belted kingfisher dominates the open sky over the river. Not only are their songs loud and long-winded in the spring, but mating pairs will also play elaborate games of tag, flying willy-nilly at top speed through, around and over trees. Males will defend territory with the combination of a ramped-up rattle and aggressive flights back and forth near the intruder sending a clear "you're trespassing" message.

The silhouette of a kingfisher is very notable – their stocky bodies, large head, thick, dagger-like bill and wings set forward on their body all help with identification from a distance if the light is not good enough to see their distinctive blue colouring. Resting on a lower branch over water, once a fish, crayfish or other prey is spotted, kingfishers dive eyes closed and grab the unsuspecting meal in their large bill, swallowing it whole, headfirst!

If I had to vote for the Pavarotti or birdsong, the award would go to the winter wren. This tiny little ball of energy weighs in at the featherweight class of birds at around 10 grams or about the weight of a heaping tablespoon of flour. Diminutive, yes, but the song of the winter wren is loud, bubbly and flute-like, rising and falling and so musical you can't help but take notice and smile.

This tiny songster likes to flit around in the forest understory and through dense bush. Holding its short, perky tail straight up when perching, the winter wren demonstrates the unique behaviour of bobbing up and down on their short legs like they are doing squats. It feeds mostly on insects hidden in decaying logs, overturned root balls and in the leaf litter. It can also cling to tree trunks searching the bark crevasses for insects and their larvae.

The twitter of birdsong can be very uplifting. Knowing the species that is singing can help improve your feeling of connection to the surrounding environment and who is passing through or living in the natural community around you. When you feel the need for an emotional boost, a recharge or diversion from whatever might be weighing on you, consider spending time outside amongst our avian friends and their spirit boosting songs.

Belted kingfisher /photos by Ed Poropat

Eastern phoebe

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Glimpses of the past

FROM TIME to time, local newspapers have reprinted pictures from the past. These images have recalled people, places and events which were an important part of local history.

Since my retirement in 2018, I have written over 500 vignettes about Miners' Bay, Gull Lake, and the surrounding area. These have been presented in various formats. For several summers, I have done a series of history nights at the Miners' Bay Church.

Those sessions have been augmented by several years of Hike Haliburton events, and a recent presentation in the Telling Our Stories series. Today starts a weekly series in *County Life*, courtesy of White Pine Media.

RUSS WUNKER
Glimpses of the Past

My stories were originally written for a Miners' Bay audience. I trust that they will be of interest to those who live here, either seasonally or a year around. We all interpret history from our own point of view. The facts have been researched as best possible. I am responsible for any errors, omissions, or unintended offense.

Below is the first installment of this series:

A Pretty Spot – circa 1908

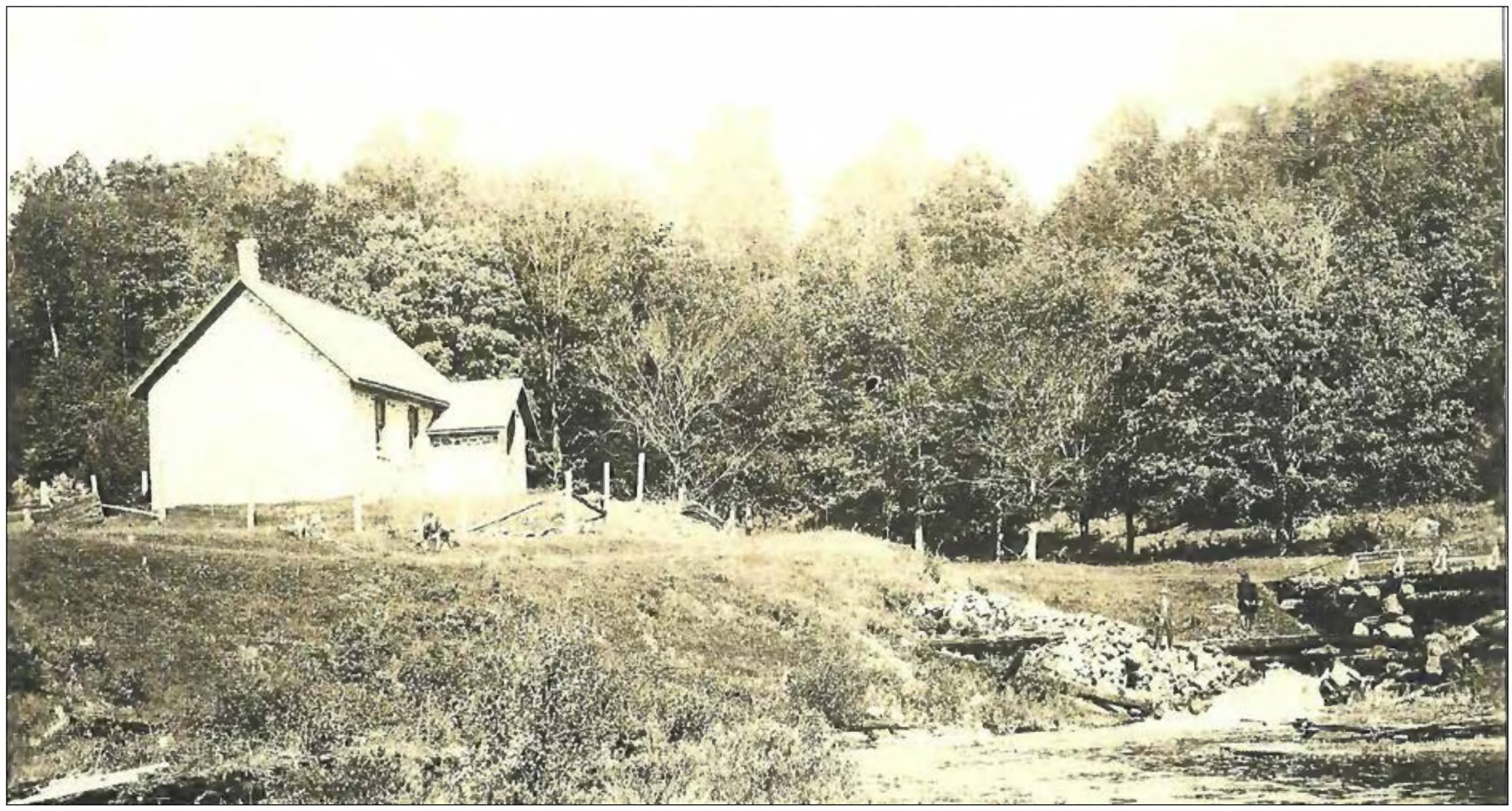
This may be the earliest photo showing the Church at Miners' Bay. It also provides some extra-ordinary and unique information about this iconic site.

In 1906, David Galloway sold a piece of property across from his home on the Cameron Road. The Trustees of the "Miners' Bay Regular Baptist Church" constructed the church, which is still active in the community.

The fence around the structure delineates the small, (one eighth acre), lot. The condition of the fence indicates that this view was taken soon after, as photos from a decade later, show it in dis-repair.

Below the church, the Round Lake Creek is seen flowing into Miners' Bay. The wooden bridge that crosses the stream is a "modern" improvement on the original structure erected in 1867 when the Cameron Road was built through Miners' Bay.

Below the bridge are the remnants of the dam that had been built several decades earlier as part of Galloways saw mill operation. The mill was located a little farther down the creek, across from the present MBL fire pit. Materials produced at the mill were used to build the original farm house.



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Recovery

AS I write these words, the term 'recovery' is being thrown around the community of Minden.

It's been days of rain, of holding our breath.

And suddenly, a reprieve. The forecasted waters bypassed the map, taking the weighty clouds elsewhere, and leaving in its wake a spotty sunlight that isn't yet carrying warmth.

EMILY STONEHOUSE
County Life Editor

But it was a break.

Enough to allow the community to dry in bits and pieces, to air out the drenched and waterlogged emotions that flitted and floated to the surface.

I tried to sandbag as often as I could. Hauling and heaving, using muscles foreign to my day-to-day. It didn't necessarily feel immediately useful, but there was nothing else to do. When we are faced with questions and conflict, we seek an anchor. Something to cling on to that tethers us to peace, to stability.

And the difference between a flood versus an ice storm or a tornado, is the pace with which it hits. Slow, aching, crawling and creeping. It seeps into our soils at a rate that both awes and terrifies, winding its icy fingers around our homes, our roads, our structure, in every form of the word.

And life as we know it stops. Meetings cancelled, events postponed. All hands on deck, as we hold our breaths.

There was something significant about being a part of that narrative. About hauling sandbags, holding hands with strangers. It's a glimpse into the rawness and vulnerability of being human. The reminder that no matter the colour, no matter the background, no matter the drive, we all bleed red, we all tread water.

And just as fast as it slowly and painfully floated in, it began to recede. Inch by inch, foot by foot. We watch, we wait, we wonder.

We use the word 'recovery'; a term that now carries warmth, offers hope. It never meant much before, but now it has weight, reason, a purpose in our future.

So we will recover. We will heal. We will find our footing and hit our stride.

And we will add this year to the ever-growing list held in records and museums. Another flood year for the books, etched into archives for eternity.

It takes a special sort of resilience for an entire population to ebb and flow with the uncertain waters of the world. Each spring, the temperatures waver and wander. We watch them closely; the attentiveness of a parent keeping an eye on a curious toddler, feeling their way through the world for the first time.

We breathe a sigh of relief when we narrowly skip a spring, we rally the troops when needed again.

And we will need them again. Minden is no stranger to these records. We watch, we wait, we wonder.

As human beings - a species dedicated to learning and growth - the cold blankness of uncertainty is an unwelcome ghost to the season. No matter how hard we try, we can't completely plan for the whispers of the waters. We can follow the steps, track the trends. But at the end of the day, we carry no strength beyond our numbers, our compassion, our resilience.

To the volunteers who kept the community afloat, who found the anchor to cling onto in the name of neighbourly support, thank you.

And to our future readers, looking at this piece now stored in the archives, watching, waiting, wondering: you'll get through this. And if you're in the depths right now, recovery is just on the horizon.

Top 10 signs that spring is here 2026

WELL, I think we can finally say that spring is truly here. That means love is in the air – for the birds and for the young people using satellite internet connections. There are other obvious signs too. Here are the top 10.

STEVE GALEA
Humour Columnist

1. More mud inside the house than out.
2. That one guy wearing shorts.
3. Groundhog that guessed it wrong is in hiding.
4. Ice fisherman having a very difficult time.
5. Evidence reveals that the dog was never constipated this winter.
6. Snow blower suddenly no longer popular.
7. Returning migratory birds all have tans.
8. You finally get to find out who the bundled-up person you spoke to all winter is.
9. Time to once again work on your play, "Death of a Snowman."
10. You put your winter coat in the closet. The pets leave theirs in the couch.

Thaw

River, rising, drowning rocks,
its fury fed by Rain,
the surge of the current rushing through my veins, as I stand on the wooden curve of bridge,
peering down into the swirling world of water, the thaw releasing the rawness of the River's roar,
awakening from its winter's rest, sweeping sticks and leaves along on its current, seizing a severed branch,
clinging by shreds to its tree that stoops over the River, the branch devoured by its flow,
the willows that stand on its banks, watching as the River rushes past, their branches skimming the froth of water,
some of the willows missing limbs, yet still they are here, to witness the River rising every year,
spring greening their tresses that droop like string, rooted to the riverbank, the only Home they've ever known,
generations of willows growing along the River, some whittled down to bone, only a trunk and a single limb remain,
the others severed by storm or the teeth of a saw, the earth beneath them, thawing,
their roots slithering through the darkness as deep as their branches grow high, canopied by layers of Sky,
clouds swelling with seeds of storm, as I stand on the bridge, watching the swirls of water surge past,
the heads of boulders poking through, as the River riots around them,
older than the willows that spring from its banks, their stone skin resilient to the change of seasons,
withstanding ice and storm and the scorch of Sun, the River rushing past them, while the boulders remain still,
water spilling over them, as it keeps flowing, carrying sticks and leaves toward wherever the River leads,
I inhale Air, sprayed by mist, River Breath drenching the boulders and grass and trees,
restless after such a long rest, though the River never sleeps, shadow-coloured water flowing shadowless
between its banks, where the willows stand watching, like they have for years,
stooping over the River, some of them losing limbs to illness or Time, still standing, solid and strong,
rooted to the riverbank, where they belong, along with the rocks and boulders and blades of grass,
greening more every day, as the River rushes past, roiling under the arch of bridge where I stand,
in no hurry to go anywhere, inhaling Air drenched by River Breath into my lungs, feeling the thawing deep inside,
something squirming, yearning to break free, in that dark cramped space where my Heart beats,
like a seed buried beneath the earth, waiting to flower.

Sylvie Kalenda

Nature in your backyard

County Life welcomes photo submissions depicting life in the Highlands. Email emily@ haliburtonpress.com. Please ensure images are high resolution - 200 dpi, 10 inches at its longest edge.

Ritchie Falls Deer by Linda Tattler

Sunshine beastie by Tammy Nash

Above, Purple finch at the feeding station by Randy Barber

Left, Fox by Tammy Nash

Loon returns by Jill Moulton

River otter by Jill Moulton

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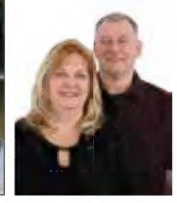

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I wish there were more agents like Vince.

-Angela C. *16 Anson St, Minden*

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lisa@lisamercer.ca

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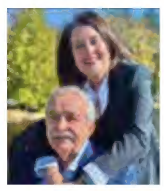

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Marj Parish
705-455-2211
Sales Representatives

16 HIGHLAND GATE BLVD, MINDEN $625,000

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- Fully finished lower level
- Screened porch + charming details throughout
- Attached double car garage
- Steps to downtown Minden, Gull River & all amenities

Cheryl Smith
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705-455-2500
info@cherylsmithremax
cherylsmithremax.com

Haliburton Highlands Health Services Foundation connected with students about what services they bring to the community.

Contractor Andrew Brown challenged students to build a specific shape with the materials provided. Brown noted that he has had success in working with students from past job fairs, and sees the value in being present within the school.

Job fair aims to keep kids local

EMILY STONEHOUSE
County Life Editor

Choosing a career is something that can happen at any stage in life.

That's why the local Home Builders' Association offers a job fair at the high school every year, to showcase the many opportunities held in the Haliburton Highlands.

Aggie Tose, the executive officer of Builders' Association, is one of the organizers of the popular event. With over 30 booths set up in the high school gymnasium, Tose noted that there was something for all interests and skillsets at the April 15 event.

"We want students to know that there are good, viable jobs in the county," she said. "You can go away, go to school, but come back to the community. You're always welcome back in the community."

While the Home Builders' Association is comprised largely of tradeswork, the event opens the gates to other industries, such as hospitality, childcare, local government, and the arts.

And to ensure that students of all ages were shown what's available locally, Tose coordinated buses to retrieve senior students from Archie Stouffer Elementary and Wilberforce Elementary, with J.Douglas Hodgson Elementary students walking down the hill to the high school. "They're so excited," said Tose. "It's a fun trip for them."

Emily Klose was once a student at Hal High, and it was during a job fair that she first spotted firefighting through Ontario's Ministry of Natural Resources. Fast forward to present day, and Klose is now a fire crew leader with the organization, and living her dream job.

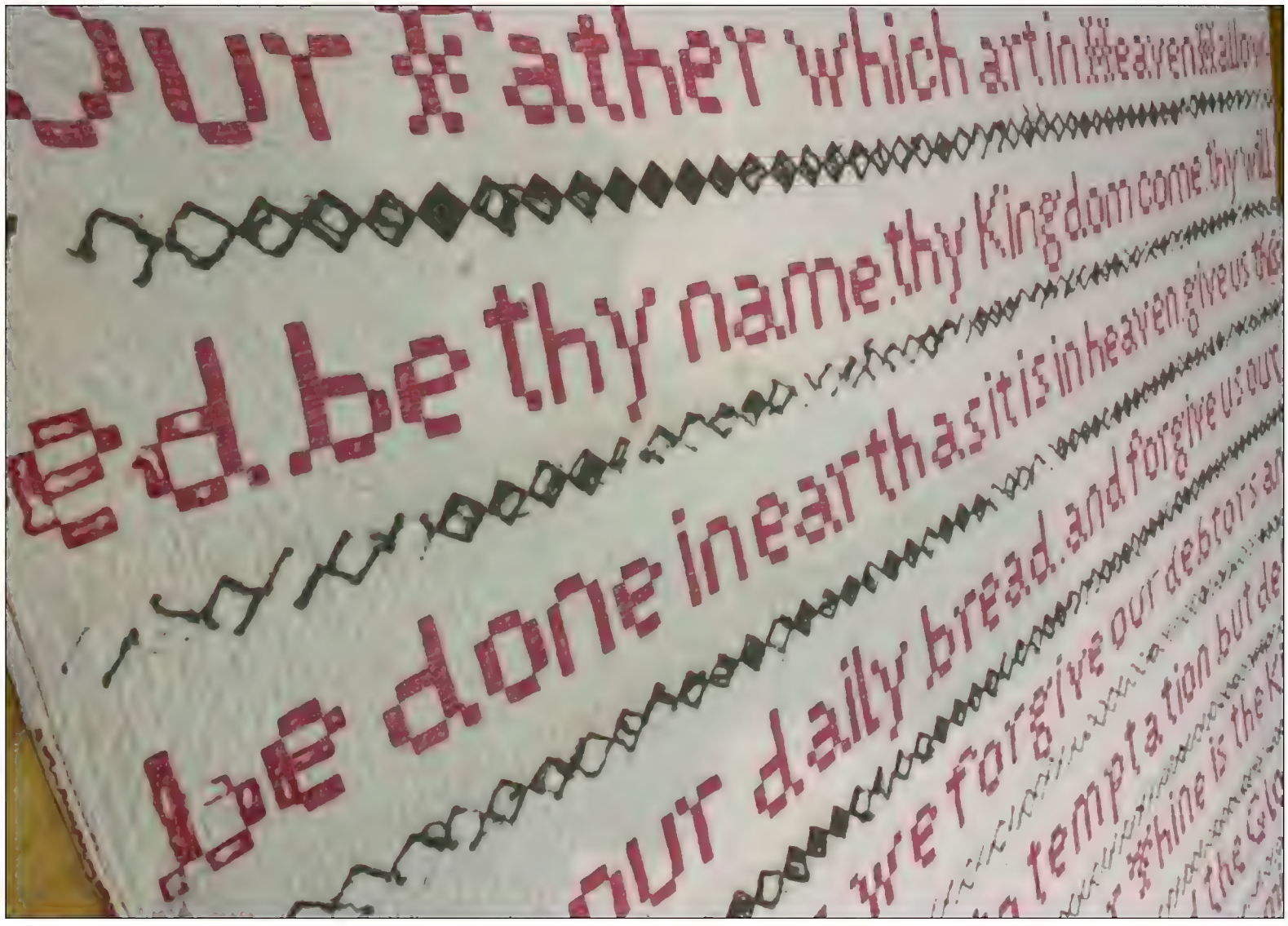
"A big part of what we're doing today is letting people know that we exist," said Klose, noting that their summer roster is full, but they're always looking for local interest. "I think what we do would be good for a lot of people."

Dawson Mueller was also a graduate of Haliburton Highlands Secondary School. When he was growing up, he thought his only real option was getting into the trades, but it wasn't necessarily something that he was drawn to. "I didn't like the idea of a 9-5 job," he said, "but I always enjoyed helping people, and knew I wanted to do something different."

Mueller is now a seasoned paramedic, and shared that he enjoys his job every day. "It's a great job to get into," he said.

Andrew Burtch was representing G.J Burtch Construction, and brought his two co-op students along for the day. He has the students through the high school placement program, and noted that the experience has been beneficial, for both staff and students.

"Some stay on for the summer, but for some of them, it's just great experience to have," he said. "They're so young still, but it's amazing to see how they change by being around adults in the field."


Our Father which art in heaven Hallow
ed be thy name thy Kingdom come thy will
be done in earth as it is in heaven give us this
our daily bread and forgive us our
we forgive our debtors an
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the Glo

Thee quilt hangs in the Haliburton Museum, and now, with the thanks of visiting Joyce Merriam, has a story attached to its past.

A Minden settler story

JANET TRULL

Special to County Life

It was Slow Art Day at Rails End Gallery on Saturday, April 11. I'm a big fan of the slow art theory of art appreciation, which encourages us to be more mindful as we walk through a gallery. So there I was with a sketch book in my lap, drawing my impressions of the Arts and Sciences exhibition, when a woman sat next to me on the station's waiting room bench. We might have been passengers waiting for a train back in 1879 when her grandmother was born.

As you do in train stations, we started chatting, and I was charmed to learn that that the woman was Joyce Merriam, a visitor from Lake Stevens, Washington, who had travelled to Haliburton on a mission. At 91, she was determined to visit the Haliburton County Museum to see a family heirloom; her great-grandmother's Lords' Prayer quilt. Joyce wanted to deliver her grandmother's accompanying story to the museum. She was so enthusiastic about her family history, I went straight to the museum to see the quilt for myself. Here are some excerpts from the story she came such a long way to share with us.

Christena Eleanor Smith Morrow's story

I was born and raised on a farm not far from a small town called Minden in Ontario, Canada on October 26, 1879. I was the third oldest in a family of 11 children born to George and Mary Jane Smith. I walked two miles over dirt roads to a country school and often had stone bruises on my feet. The only time I ever got a whipping in school was for wading in a creek which was forbidden. The whole class got three whacks on the hand with a wooden ruler.

One day, a circus came to town and my Dad took the two oldest boys to see it. During the performance, my brothers and some others were invited to the stage. Three days later, they came down with diphtheria. It spread through the whole county. There was not a family in the whole neighbourhood that did not lose someone. One family lost eight children.

Joyce Merriam visited Haliburton County from Washington this month, to share the stories of her family with ties to the area. /photos by Janet Trull

(This fits with historical records that say nearly half the children in Haliburton County died in the black diphtheria outbreak in the winter of 1885-86. The diphtheria vaccine was one of the earliest and most effective childhood vaccines, but the disease has seen a resurgence in recent years due to vaccine hesitancy.)

The night my oldest brother came down with diphtheria, my Grandfather took all of us children away to an old house on a deserted farm where cattle and sheep had been living. We all huddled together. Then my younger brother got sick (the one who had also been at the circus) and Grandfather carried him back to the house. That was the last we saw of him. There was a big rock on the place where we could sit and look over home. Aunt Susan met us there to tell us Johnnie died and we watched them take his body away. One week later, Willie was gone. Dad burned every bit of clothing about the place. Mother had stayed through the sickness with my baby brother and the doctor said he was saved because she was nursing him.

My mother was not a large woman, but with hard work and raising babies she became quite matronly. We did not have water in the house, and our well was a block away down a hill. All the water we used had to be carried in pails up the hill. One day, the boards on top of the well gave way and Mother fell into the well and had to stay there until Father and Granddad came in from work.

Granddad seldom went to town, but he never missed the County Fair. Some of his old cronies would get ahold of him and have a couple of drinks and that was all he saw of the fair. Someone would bring him home and Mother would put him to bed and tell us children he got sick.

We had our own sheep. Mother used to spin the wool into yarn. Some was sent to the mill and woven into cloth for blankets and clothes. She also made her own soap from pig fat and wood ashes. Mother also did midwife work and before she died, she picked six stalwart boys that she had helped into this world to be her pallbearers. She said she didn't want any old cripple carrying her around. She died at 89.

The quilt, now in the collection at the Haliburton County Museum, is part of this story. The museum has no details of the donation, but we can assume that it came from the home of Mary Jane Morphet Smith. Tiny neat stitches attach fabric cut-out letters to the quilt spelling out the entire Lord's Prayer. It looks to be a project that would have been pieced together and quilted on a frame, possibly by herself and other women at a Minden church.

Many thanks to Joyce Merriam for coming back to Haliburton County to honour the contributions of her ancestors to this region.

Legion Events

Branch 441 Kinmount

Monday: Bid Euchre 1 p.m., Card night 7 p.m.
Wednesday: Mixed Darts, 7:30 p.m.
Friday: Bingo- Doors open at 5 p.m., play at 6:45 p.m.
Saturday: Clubroom opens at 3 p.m. Meat draw 5 p.m.
Special events:
2nd Sunday of the month Ladies Auxiliary - 11 a.m.
3rd Thursday of the month 7 p.m. executive meeting and 7:30 p.m. general meeting (members only)
Last Sunday of the month - All you can eat breakfast
Hall rentals available at reasonable prices.
Email: 441RCL@gmail.com Call 705-488-3462 or 705-928-7105. We welcome everyone to our events and we look forward to seeing you!

Branch 129 Haliburton

Mondays: Bridge 1 p.m. Schofield Rm. Youth darts 6:30 to 8 p.m. Clubroom 10 to 18 years of age. All are welcome, no experience necessary
Tuesdays: League darts 7 p.m.
Wednesdays: Bid Euchre 1 p.m. start – Main Hall. Bingo doors open at 6 p.m. Bingo 7 p.m. FirstWed of each month with jackpot. Follow Facebook.com/Branch129 Bingo for the most up-to-date information
Thursdays: General Meeting third Thursday of the month, 6:30 p.m. All members urged to attend.
Ladies Auxiliary last Thursday of the month at 1 p.m.
Fridays: Five meat draw, five prizes each draw, first draw 4:30 p.m., last draw 6:30 p.m. Tickets $2 per draw. Paul Sisson, MC. Friday fun darts from 4:30 p.m. and onwards. 50/50 Draw 5:40 p.m.
Planning a function for 10 or 200, call Cheryl Waller at 905-447-7741, email haliburtonlegionrentals@gmail.com or visit haliburtonlegion.com. Everyone is welcome! Club room hours: Mon. 3 to 6 p.m., Tues. 3 to 9 p.m., Wed/Thurs. 3 to 6 p.m. Fri. 3 to 7 p.m.

Branch 636 Minden

Lunch - Monday to Friday
Monday: Rug Hookers every second week.
Bid Euchre 1 to 3 p.m.
Tuesday: Food 5 p.m. Canoe FM Bingo 6 p.m.
Thursday: Cribbage 1 to 3 p.m., Darts 7 to 9 p.m. and Euchre 7 to 9 p.m.
Every other Friday: Karaoke 8 to 11 p.m.
Friday Fish & Chips, Wings. Lunch 11a.m. to 2 p.m. and Dinner 4 to 7 p.m.
Saturday All Day Breakfast 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. with three Meat draws at 11 a.m.
Call ahead any day for take-out: 705-286-4541.
Schedules are subject to change without notice. Check our Facebook page Minden Legion Branch 636

Branch 624 Wilberforce

Sunday: Special Events Only - May 3 L.A Breakfast $10. 9 to 11 a.m.
Monday: Open 7 to 10 p.m. May 4, 11, 18, 25 Darts $5/player 7 p.m.
Tuesday: Special Events Only - May 5, 12, 19, 26 Veteran's and Seniors Exercise Club 1 p.m.
Wednesday: Open 2 to 10 p.m. - No regularly scheduled events on May 6.
May 13, 20, 27 Darts $5/player 2 p.m. Quick Supper Menu changes weekly $10. 5 to 6:30 p.m. Open Cribbage 6:30 p.m. – No need to pre-register
Thursday: Open 2 to 6 p.m. - May 14, 28 HHHS Social Rec 10 a.m.
Friday: Open 2 to 11 p.m. - May 1, 15, 29 Fish & Chips 1pc/$15, 2pc/$20. 5 to 8 p.m.
8, 22 Wings and Jam Session $15/lb. 5 to 8 p.m.
8, 22 Community Care 55+ Lunch $20. 12 p.m.
Saturday: Open 2 to 7 p.m. - May 16 Lou Moody Fishing Derby. Weigh in 3 to 5 p.m.,
16 Karaoke 8 p.m. to 12 a.m.,
23 Honours and Awards 11 a.m.
30 Nacho Average Trivia. Registration is at 6:30 p.m. Game Begins at 7pm Sharp. $5/Player
Call the Legion for more info 705-448-222

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Bringing a community together

Despite ongoing floods, the Haliburton County Folk Society went forward with their scheduled concert on Saturday, April 18 featuring Devin Matthew Wilson and Minor Gold. To show their support for the community challenges, the Folk Society offered free tickets to those impacted by the floods. /TIM YANO staff photographer

Local Service Directory

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COMMERCIAL SPACE FOR RENT

Fitness Room for rent: Blue Sky Yoga Studio at Haliburton Chiropractic. Bright & Open in Downtown Haliburton with Private entrance and washroom. **Health Professional/ Therapist treatment room for rent** at Haliburton Chiropractic. Furnished with massage table, desk & chair. Available by the hour, half or full day. Contact: 705-457-3500. info@haliburtonchiropractic.com

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Looking for someone to clean 2 small cottages Sundays from 12-4pm. Starting the end of June to start of September. Happy to have a student as long as you are reliable. 10 minutes from Haliburton. Pay starting at $25/hour. Please call/text **705-927-5801** if interested

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GARAGE/YARD SALES

Garage Sale. May 2nd and 3rd. 9am to 4pm. **1200 Ritchie Falls Rd**. Yard art, tools, and miscellaneous items. Rain or Shine.

Community Events

Send your event listing to classifieds@haliburtonpress.com

Haliburton Lions' Mothers Day Foodbank Fill Up

Where:Haliburton and Wilberforce Foodland
When: Saturday, May 2, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.
We accept food products or donations. All donations and food will be taken to the Wilberforce and Haliburton Foodbanks. Complete details at haliburtonlions.com

Spring Wildflowers and Leeks Land Trust Discovery Days

When: Saturday May 9, 10 a.m. to noon
Where: Barnum Creek Nature Reserve
The wonder of changing seasons is upon us. Join avid naturalist Michele Swyer to wander trails at Barnum Creek Nature Reserve in search of beautiful spring wildflowers and wild leeks. Learn about these delicate early spring ephemerals and how to sustainably harvest wild leeks. Please note that wild leeks may not be harvested at Barnum Creek Nature Reserve or any other Land Trust property. Pre-registration required at www.haliburtonlandtrust.ca. Admission by donation. Partially funded by TD Friends of the Environment Foundation.
Admission by donation
Leader: Michele Swyer

"The Bee Project - Native Bees"

When: May 12, 7 p.m.
Where: Minden Community Centre, 55 Parkside
Your garden is buzzing. Join the Minden & District Horticultural Society to learn about "The Bee Project – Native Bees" from guest speaker Cheryl Fraser, followed by the monthly society meeting. New members welcome!

Minden & District Horticultural Society Annual Plant Sale

When: May 16, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Where: 63 Bobcaygeon Rd., Minden
Rain or Shine!

Recurring events

TOPS: Take Off Pounds Sensibly

When: Monday mornings 9:30 to 11 a.m.
Where: Haliburton Legion Branch 129, upper level
Admission: Yearly membership of $59
A non-profit/commercial network of weight-loss support groups, offers programs for healthy living and weight management.

Bridge for Seniors

When: Mondays at 1 p.m.
Where: Haliburton Legion - Schofield Room
All welcome

Haliburton Legion Walking Group

When: Mondays at 9 to 10 a.m.
Where: Haliburton Legion - Remembrance Hall
A safe walking environment. Lead by an Occupational therapist.

Free Balanced Fitness, Active Social Senior Classes

When: Every second and fourth Tuesday of each month at 10 to 11 a.m.
Where: Haliburton Legion - Remembrance Hall
All seniors are welcome. Group led by Registered Recreation Therapist

Bid Euchre

When: Wednesdays at 1 p.m.
Where: Haliburton Legion - Remembrance Hall
All welcome!

Duplicate Bridge - Please arrange for a partner.

When: Wednesdays at 12:45 at Park Lane Apartments.
Fridays at 12:45 at Haliburton Legion, Schofield Room.

Cards/Euchre/Cribbage

When: Thursdays at 2:30 p.m.
Where: St. George's Church
617 Mountain Street

Monthly Community Breakfast

When: Fourth Saturday of Every Month from 9 to 11 a.m.
Where: Fellowship Room, Haliburton United Church, 10 George St. Haliburton
Hosted by North Entrance Masonic Lodge and Haliburton United Church. No fixed cost for attending the breakfast. Donations are warmly welcomed and will be put to meaningful use supporting local initiatives. A portion of the proceeds collected will be donated to the Public School Breakfast Program in Haliburton County, helping to ensure that local students start their day with a nutritious meal.

Lakeside Church Service

When: Sunday at 9 a.m. and 10:45 a.m.
Where: 9 Park Street, Haliburton.
All welcome here.

Weekly Meat Rolls

When: Every Saturday, 3 p.m.
Where: Coboconk Legion, Hwy 48 and 35
Join us for our weekly meat draw at the Coboconk Legion. Five spins for $10. The first four rounds are for highest and lowest score with two winners per round. The last round is for a prepare-it-yourself dinner for two. Additional spins for this round are available for $2 each. Call 705-454-8127 or email info@coboconklegion.ca for more information.

Haliburton County Public Library Book Nook Hours

When: 1st and 3rd Tuesday of the month - 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Where: Minden Hills Branch, 176 Bobcaygeon Rd. Minden
Choose from a variety of gently read books: thrillers, mysteries, romance, biographies, children and youth selections, Canadian authors, fiction, science fiction/fantasy, sports, spiritual and other non-fiction books. Bring a reusable bag. Payment is by cash donation. All money raised supports library enhancements and programmes for all libraries in the county.

Wilberforce Visitor Information Centre

When: Thursday to Monday 10 a.m. 4 p.m. (Closed Tuesday and Wednesday)
Where: 2786 Essonville Line in Wilberforce, Curling Club
We offer mineral permission to collect forms, directions, geocaching information and GPS rentals, trails, events, and other general area information. Free Wi-Fi available.

Mineral Collecting

Mineral collecting is a fun outdoor activity. Adults and kids alike will delight in the chance to dig for buried treasure and bring home some colourful gems of your very own! Get a Permission to Collect form (free) from our website highlandseast.ca.

Geocaching

Geocaching is a family friendly outdoor game. It's often referred to as "treasure hunting with a high tech twist" because you use the geocaching.com website and either a GPS device or a smartphone. GPS Rentals are available from the Visitor Information Centre and come preloaded so you can start playing right away.

Trails

Whether you like to walk or run, ride a bike, horse or an ATV, one of Highlands East's trails is sure to please. Come joy the fall colours. Maps and descriptions can be found on our website highlandseast.ca.

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Construction could start this autumn

by Andrew Milne

The hospital board is starting to look a lot like it's building hospitals.

Local residents may see the foundations in the ground as early as this fall.

On Thursday, the Haliburton Highlands Health Services (HHHS) board announced the hiring of the consultant, architect, and project manager for the capital building project to refurbish and replace hospital facilities in Minden and Haliburton.

In the same meeting the board approved the document called the 'functional plan', which lays out the timetable and other critical details of construction — that plan is now enroute to the Ministry of Health for final approval.

A project that has wended a long, tortuous route through local politics and the Queen's Park bureaucratic maze, in simpler terms, may soon be made manifest in bricks and mortar.

The board's timetable calls for a staged building process, in which the foundations are dug as early as this fall. The consultants say they can accommodate that schedule.

Consultants W.M. Salter and Associates — a firm with experience in long term care facilities, and which recently assisted in the integration of two formerly separate facilities in Parry Sound — will oversee the project, in association with architect Henry Lowry, whose experience is more in acute care. The board's project manager, Bob Savage, has previous experience working on projects with Salter and Associates.

Executive director Foster Loucks made the announcement with evident pleasure, introducing Millet Salter of Salter and Associates to the board, the public, and the media, with a small flourish.

Chair Hugh Nichol stated at the beginning of his mandate that getting the spades into the ground with all possible haste should be the board's first priority. Now that looks like it may happen this fall, and he's pleased.

Said Nichol Thursday, "I feel we're getting a lot closer. There's a lot left to do, but we're closer... I had one question for the candidates we interviewed for this position, and that's can we get this started by this fall, and Millet told us very directly he thinks it can be done."

Salter, speaking to the board Thursday, said that his firm is excited to be working on the project, and that ideally the process will evolve from here as a highly interactive one, in which the board, its employees, and the consultants work closely and constantly together, refining the plans in continual fashion.

"We aren't going to come to you with the solution, and everyone sees in a flash that that's it, that's what we're doing. That's not how it works. It's going to be a constant process, an iteractive process, where we bring something to you, you tell us what you think, we take it back, work on it, and bring it to you again, and together, we'll try to get to that best possible solution... We aren't coming in here as experts, with all the ideas, coming in from outside to tell you what you have to do... You tell us what your problems are, the way you see them, and we'll help you solve them."

Salter expressed considerable confidence in the architect. Said Salter, "Henry Lowry is in my opinion as knowledgeable of acute care as

(more on page 2)

LOOK OUT, BEHIND YOU!!

The giant inflatable gorilla featured in the Lions Club District Convention parade Saturday, appears to be lunging for several of the marchers on Minden's Main Street. In fact, a gust of wind had momentarily blown the figure over. The gorilla, an entry from the Dunsford and District Lions Club, was one of many colourful floats taking part in the parade. For more from the parade, please turn to page 3.

Community Centre could be the place to be as new century dawns

Items from the April 24 meeting of Anson, Hindon and Minden municipal council.

Turn of the century

Doug Johnson attended Thursday's meeting of council to ask about rental of the Minden community centre for New Year' Eve 1999. Johnson said he knows the Minden Fire Department has traditionally booked the centre for New Year's Eve events, but he said that if, for any reason, the fire department decided not to book the facility, he would like to have first chance.

"I'd like to see a really creative event for the turn of the century," Johnson said.

He noted that one idea would be to have a 10-hour event with one hour representing each decade of the past 100 years.

"It's something to think about," he told council.

Later in the meeting, Fire Chief Bill Hogg said that the fire department isn't likely to give up the facility.

"It's our big fund-raiser of the year," he told council.

Rescue van tender

Ridgewood Ford will supply the Minden Fire Department with a cab and chassis, which will be transformed into a rescue van. Cost of the cab and chassis will be $31,200, including taxes.

Councillor Grant Plooard noted that the tender included PST (provincial sales tax). Fire emergency vehicles are exempt from PST and although the unit won't officially be a fire emergency vehicle until the box and equipment are installed by a company specializing in that type of work, an effort will be made to see if the cab and chassis qualifies for the exemption.

Ridgewood Ford was the only local dealer to supply a tender.

It will take eight to 10 weeks to deliver the cab and chassis, which will then go to be fitted with the emergency equipment. Fire Chief Bill Hogg said he couldn't say when the finished unit will be put into service.

MAPSA can't deal with parking violators

Members of the Minden Area Police Support Association (MAPSA) have told councillor Grant Plooard, who rep-

(more on page 4)

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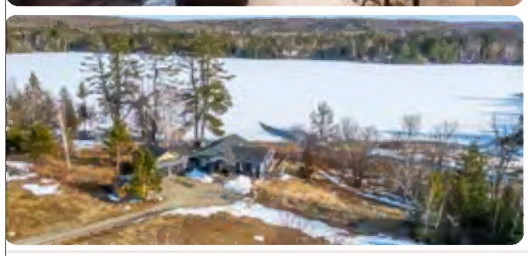

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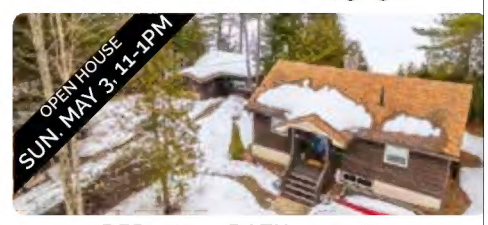

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MINK ROAD, LONG LAKE $749,900

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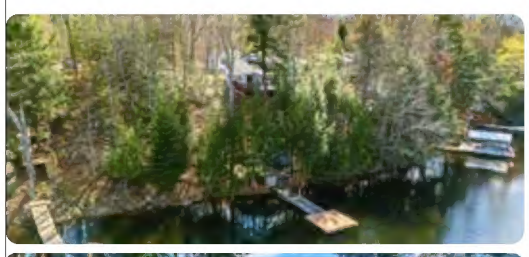

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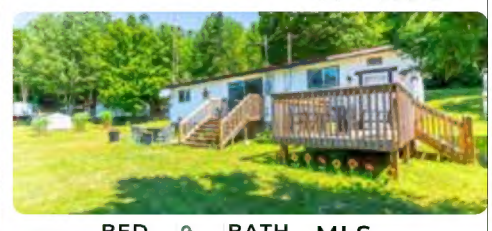

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-C. Nilsson, Google Review

A big thank you goes to Linda Baumgartner and her team for their expert advice and service. Linda was a pleasure to work with and was professional and knowledgeable in handling the sale of our cottage. We can fully endorse Linda Baumgartner and her team for their integrity, honesty and commitment to our sale.

-S. Webb, Google Review

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